

Bite-size facts and quotes from the Global Report

In 2016 Ban Ki-mon concluded that “If the world is to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we need a quantum leap in women’s economic empowerment.” (p. 7)

This is a call to action for further support in order to catalyze women empowerment through enterprise development. (p. 7)

Economies lose out when half of its society cannot realize its full potential. (p. 10)

Poverty cannot be overcome until all people have equal rights and opportunities. Women’s economic empowerment is seen as the core contributing factor for achieving equality between men and women. (p. 10)

By advancing gender equality, US\$12 trillion would be added to the global economy by 2025 (McKinsey Global Institute 2015).

Women typically invest a higher proportion of their earnings in their families and communities than men (UNDP 2015). If female farmers in developing countries had equal access to productive resources, yield could increase by 20 to 30%. (p. 12)

Women work two-thirds of the world’s working hours, but earn less than half of the world’s income. Women do at least twice as much unpaid work as men (UN Women 2015, UNESCO 2015, UNHLP 2016). (p. 12)

Entrepreneurship represents a large portion of women’s paid work, and it is estimated that the majority of the 1 billion women that will enter the workforce by 2020 will do so through entrepreneurial work. (p. 17)

Across the developing world, women own approximately 8 to 10 million small and medium-sized enterprises, accounting for 31-38% of all small and medium-sized enterprises in emerging markets. (p. 17)

All women participating in CARE’s project in Burundi have increased their income. The average rate of increase in income is 202,8%; the lowest being 104% and the highest is 401%. (p. 30)

Foundation 500 is an initiative by the non-profit H&M Foundation and humanitarian agency CARE. By gathering portraits and stories of entrepreneurs enrolled in its Global Program on Empowerment of Women, the Foundation 500 is an all-female list of entrepreneurs in emerging markets. Empowering women is one of the most effective ways to break the cycle of poverty and create economic growth in societies at large. The list includes 500 women from 11 countries portrayed in the style most often used when portraying male business leaders: strong, confident – in power-positions. The H&M Foundation is privately funded by the Stefan Persson family, founders and the main owners of H&M. It’s an independent legal entity operating beyond the company’s value chain with its own staff, strategy and board. Since 2013, the family has donated 1.3 billion Swedish krona (\$149 million/€133 million) to drive positive change on a global scale. For further information, please visit www.foundation500.com and <http://hmfoundation.com>.